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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH
REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its
1393rd meeting, on 14 August 1991

The Special Committee,

Referring to resolution A on the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands,

Taking note of the Trusteeship Agreement concluded between the Administering Authority and the Security Council with regard to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1/

Mindful that, under Article 83 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council shall exercise all functions of the United Nations relating to strategic areas, including the approval of the terms of the trusteeship agreements and of their alteration or amendment,

Confident that special attention will continue to be given by the Security Council to the full implementation of all provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement,

Noting that the Administering Authority has taken measures to distribute the financial payments for unpaid war damage claims to the people of the Trust

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1/ Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (United Nations publication, Sales No. 1957, VI.A.1).

Territory, and expressing the hope that all remaining claims will be settled in the near future,

Bearing in mind the right of the people of the Trust Territory to oppose the presence of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in areas under their territorial jurisdiction,

1. Reaffirms the importance of ensuring that the people of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands fully and freely exercise their inalienable rights and that the obligations of the Administering Authority under the Trusteeship Agreement 1/ and the Charter of the United Nations are duly discharged;

2. Takes note of the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 683 (1990) on 22 December 1990, by which it determined, in the light of the entry into force of the new status agreements for the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands, that the objectives of the Trusteeship Agreement had been fully attained and that the applicability of the Trusteeship Agreement had terminated with respect to those entities;

3. Expresses the hope that Palau, the only remaining Territory under the Trusteeship Agreement, will be able to complete the process of exercising its right to self-determination in due course;

4. Takes note of the fact that the Trusteeship Council, at its fifty-eighth session, welcomed the assurance of the Administering Authority that it was prepared to assist the Government of Palau, at its request, in any appropriate endeavour leading to the final determination of a political status for Palau, in accordance with the free choice of its people, 2/ and calls upon the Administering Authority to discharge its responsibilities in that connection, in strict conformity with the provisions of the Charter, particularly Article 83, and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

5. Urges the Administering Authority to assist the maritime authorities of the Trust Territory in strengthening the existing legislation concerning the exploitation, management and conservation of a 200-mile exclusive economic zone, and reaffirms its conviction that the rights of the people of Palau over such a zone should be respected and that they should receive all benefits deriving from it;

6. Stresses the need to preserve the cultural identity and heritage of the people of Palau, and calls upon the Administering Authority to take all necessary steps towards that end;

7. Takes note of the interest of the people of the Trust Territory in the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Pacific.

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2/ T/L.1278, annex, para. 3.